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STATE DOCUMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MONTANA VETERANS' HOME
Columbia Falls, Montana
TO THE
GOVERNOR OF MONTANA
HONORABLE FORREST H. ANDERSON
For the Fiscal Year ended
June 30, 1972

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DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS

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MONTANA VETERANS' HOME

P. O. BOX 250

COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA 59912

RICHARD P. WALSH, SUPERINTENDENT

October 18, 1972

The Honorable Forrest H. Anderson

Governor of the State of Montana

State Capitol Building

Helena, Montana

Dear Governor Anderson:

In accordance with the requirement of Section 82-4002, R. C. M. 1947, we herewith transmit the report of the Montana Veterans' Home for the fiscal year July 1, 1971 - June 30, 1972.

Major accomplishments during the year include:

Extensive building and grounds beautification.

Construction of large root cellar.

Large garden and new orchard planted.

Final planning stage for nursing home construction.

Increased overall cooperation of staff, membership and public.

Received substantial help and support from veterans' organizations, in addition to their parties and visits with the residents.

We have appreciated the fine assistance from various state departments and the excellent cooperation received this past year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard P. Walsh".

RICHARD P. WALSH, Superintendent
MONTANA VETERANS' HOME

RPW:--



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PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Located

South Corridor of New Facility

* * * * *

OFFICERS

Superintendent	Richard P. Walsh
Accountant	Robert G. Feenan
Accounting Clerk, part time	Jacqueline Armstrong
Clerk-Stenographer, part time	Lily I. Harwood

* * * * *

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board has been active and very instrumental in the welfare of the members and the Home. These local people represent a variety of occupations and serve as good-will ambassadors to the community, since they are aware of the needs and accomplishments on a first hand basis.

LEGAL REFERENCES

Established by an act of the State Legislature, Fourth Legislative Assembly in 1895 and known as the "Soldier's Home", Columbia Falls.

Title 7, Section 5, Chapter 199 in the 1965 Rules and Regulations on admission, custody, transfer and release of residents, and the custody, expenditure and receipt of moneys at institutions.

Title 7 Section 20 name to be known as "Montana Veterans' Home" providing home and subsistence for honorably discharged veterans, and wives or widows, as space permits.

Title 7, Section 22, eligibility requirements:

- (1) Honorably discharged U. S. armed forces veteran,
or wife or widow of a veteran.
- (2) Semi-invalid unable to earn a livelihood as a
result of disability, and ambulatory.
- (3) Two years residency, prior to application for
admission, in Montana.
- (4) No felony or moral turpitude crime conviction.
- (5) Non-alcoholic or habitual inebriation record.
- (6) Women, minimum age 50 years.

PRINCIPAL GOALS

ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM Maintain the proper records relating to admittance and care of the members, as required by Federal and State government, as well as the procedures and details concerning their welfare. To create a pleasant atmosphere between employees, membership and public individuals, groups and organizations interested in the Home.

CARE & SERVICES PROGRAM To achieve efficiency and economy in all areas of service. Medical attention and recreational requirements are provided in a friendly atmosphere for veterans, wives or widows, who are no longer able to make a living or care for themselves as a result of age, sickness or injury. The domiciliary population goal is 100. \$3.50 per day is paid by the Veterans' Administration for eligible veterans. Receiving special attention is the effort to utilize resources, such as land available for garden produce. This is resulting in an achievement of holding costs down, and in some cases even lowering them. Also stressed is the timely repair and improvement of land, equipment and buildings. Present goals are to comply with State safety requirements, paying particular attention to fire code standards.

NURSING CARE PROGRAM Our future goal to provide extended nursing care for those veterans, wives or widows who cannot be cared for in the domiciliary for various health reasons. Our goal is 40 beds. The Veterans' Administration is presently paying \$5.00 to the nursing homes for the eligible veteran in residency toward the cost of per diem. Members will be charged according to their ability to pay, the amount to be determined by the Reimbursement Division of the Department of Institutions.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Administration

We have made strides in accomplishing our purpose of building the morale of the membership and employees alike. Meetings have been held whenever problems arose which have proved beneficial. Communication has been established so that problems can be brought to the Administrator for hearing and a solution found.

We have succeeded in establishing and maintaining good relationships with the community, and have been encouraged by favorable remarks concerning the Home.

We feel one of the greatest assets has been our Advisory Board, and are highly appreciative of this service link to the community. The efforts of the Board have resulted in an over-all cooperation to improve the premises and see to the members' welfare.

We feel it is to the credit of the citizens of Montana that in return for their support we have encouraged their use of our available facilities whenever they are able to take advantage of them.

We have made strides in our change over to the centralized accounting and payroll procedures. We have realized benefits from the switch to the State Motor Pool, and feel we will notice them even more when the time arrives that we have to replace any vehicles. The cooperation between Purchasing, the Budget Division, the Reimbursement Division and other departments of the Department of Institutions, and other state agencies has been commendable, as we feel that there were undoubtedly duplications.

We have tried to make an effective stand on providing an attractive and pleasant environment for the membership. This is the only institution where the patient is not committed, but rather enters by choice and is responsible for paying his own charges, according to his or her ability to pay.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Care & Services

ROOT CELLAR A 20'x40'x8' root cellar with sidewalls of ties and plank ceiling with a corrugated steel roof was constructed this past year. Canyon Logging donated the excavation. North Valley Rescue Assoc. put up the walls and members and employees put on the roof. We have been in need of this storage and will use it with our present garden crop. A road was built which permits a truck to drive in.

ORCHARD A donation of 125 fruit trees, plus a 7½ HP motor, the pump and pipe to irrigate the orchard was made by the District 4 American Legion. Some of their members assisted in planting the trees, along with 12 youth from Swan River Youth Camp. The irrigation line was dug and installed by Home personnel.

GARDEN A produce garden of nearly 7 acres of potatoes, some of which will be given to Swan River in appreciation of some of their boys helping plant and return once to hoe the crop. Nearly 3 acres of corn, squash, pumpkin, beans, peas and sunflower seeds (for native squirrels) were planted. A substantial savings has been reflected with the garden by canning and freezing vegetables and fruits. Our being able to obtain Prison meats and butcher them locally and some other items such as bread and buns donated from a local store have helped to lower our food budget by approximately \$6,000 from the previous biennium. We have been assisted by Mrs. Bridwell, State Dietician, in the food service department.

GARDEN EQUIPMENT A "CC" cultivator was donated to the Home by the VFW State Commander. A one-way plow was given by Hansen Implement, Wolf Point.

WATER LINES An extension to the water lines was added to the Cemetery, baseball field and to River Park, below the hill.

FIRE BREAK A forty foot wide fire break around the perimeter of the property was made as a safety factor. This will later be planted in trees to serve as a shelter belt.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS Painting of fifteen rooms and all halls in the former

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS con't.

Care & Services

Womens' Building and eight rooms upstairs in the Service Building has been completed. New steps and wrought iron safety rails have made it easier and safer for the member's use. The rise is lower and the tread wider.

DRAPERIES A continuing project of replacing the faded and torn draped in the Mens' Dorm was aided by 6 pair donated by V. F. W. Auxilaries, 2 by Cootiettes and 3 by the Home budget. Eight rooms are left to replace.

REFINISHING FURNITURE Thirty-five pieces of antique and useful old furniture were refinished by 2 Work/Study students. They also painted the library woodwork in the former Womens' Building library. Included in the renovation was installation of a new rug. Drapes were made, four chairs upholstered and other decorating undertaken. Included in the seven pieces of furniture added to the living room is a large amoire, refinished and decorated with ornamental grillwork on doors.

An antique oak scroll design frame was recut and is now a conversation piece in the New Facility living room.

WATER TOWER The State Engineering office performed a check of the 23,000 gallon water tower footings and found them to be satisfactory. We were pleased with their cooperation.

PROJECTOR A 16 MM projector was presented to the Home by the American Legion Auxilaries and has been educational as well as recreational in its use. We have been scheduled for monthly movies from the Fish & Game Commission and in addition free films are being provided by the State library at Great Falls, handled through the Flathead County Library.

DOUGHBOY Footings for the bronze life size statue of the World War I soldier, donated to us by Kalispell residents for its final resting place, were poured and the base and rock work planter are ready for the statue.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nursing Home

Since December 1970, when preliminary plans were first submitted for the Nursing Care unit, we have entered into the present construction phase for this new wing. We are submitting a budget to the next Legislature for commencing operation in November, 1973. We feel this has been a major accomplishment, and it has taken the cooperation of many persons.

We are pleased with the assistance given us by the Division of Architectural Engineering on this project.

We feel we have been given good publicity on this facility, as we are already receiving many applications for admittance. World War I veterans are the age where many of their health requirements cannot be taken care of in the Domiciliary. We have lost quite a few of our older members, due to their need for nursing home care, and we hope to see some of them able to return to their Home of many years when care can be provided here.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ADMINISTRATION

The Superintendent, Accountant and a part-time Clerk-Stenographer and Accounting Clerk comprise a total FTE of 3.2 which handle the work requirements for the Domiciliary membership. This has averaged 69.1 the past year. While the duties of maintaining files and reports for Federal and State requirements, hiring and related details of employees and the general over-all supervision of the complete facility are of primary importance, our efforts are concentrated in creating a happy Home for those who have earned the right to live here. We are also concerned with the organizations and interested persons who contribute so much to the welfare of our members. Thus we encourage and include their participation in our schedule of events. We also see to the administering of those veterans who require help with their affairs, thus enabling them to maintain their sense of well-being.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CARE AND SERVICES

The Domiciliary consists of three main buildings housing up to 100 members. These are maintained by the State and Federal funds. The Veterans' Administration pays \$3.50 per veteran member eligible toward the daily cost of per diem. Members are charged according to their ability to pay, and this is determined by the Reimbursement Division of the Department of Institutions. The home and subsistence is for veterans honorably discharged from any branch of the Armed Services of the United States of America, who have become unable to earn a livelihood by reason of such service or because of age. Thirteen women are included in the membership, and they contribute greatly to the morale of the Home.

Twenty employees are employed to maintain and/or improve living conditions for the members, working with respect to the dignity of old age, and not merely for the sake of the job it has created. These efforts are reflected in the appearance of the buildings and grounds, as well as the fine food and clean clothing. Also provided are medical bi-weekly services and attention to recreational and transportation needs of these elderly people. Several members are now using wheel-chairs and many walk with the aid of crutches and canes.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

NURSING CARE

Under construction is our forty bed unit to provide extended care for those not requiring actual hospitalization. The Veterans' Administration will pay \$5.00 daily for each eligible veteran in residency toward the cost of per diem. Women are not included in this reimbursement, unless honorably discharged veterans.

Approximately fifteen employees will be required for this extended care. Members will be charged according to their ability to pay, which will be determined by the Reimbursement Division of the Department of Institutions.

We foresee some of our present members requiring such care, and know of many who have had to be admitted to private nursing homes in other cities. We eagerly look forward to our members having this assurance that their old age will see our care for them being carried on at this Home, in the adjacent nursing care wing.

PROGRAM COST SUMMARY

ADMINISTRATION	Salaries & Benefits	27,063
	Operations	4,541
	Capital	<u>136</u> 31,740
CARE & SERVICES	Salaries & Benefits	127,782
	Operations	60,852
	Capital	<u>4,199</u> 192,833
TOTAL	Salaries & Benefits	154,845
	Operations	65,393
	Capital	<u>4,335</u> 224,573
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$224,573
STATE APPROPRIATIONS		154,629
FEDERAL AID		<u>69,944</u> \$224,573

Operations, excluding salaries for personal services and capital items for the past three years show a small rise.

In costs for the years as shown are the following:

1970	1971	1972
61,662	61,920	65,393

PROGRAM COST SUMMARY AND DETAIL

MEMBERSHIP

DAYS

1971	Men	Women	Total
July	1,752	397	2,149
August	1,753	410	2,163
September	1,611	437	2,048
October	1,689	443	2,132
November	1,679	432	2,111
December	1,652	399	2,051
1972			
January	1,736	394	2,130
February	1,649	376	2,025
March	1,749	421	2,170
April	1,681	424	2,105
May	1,783	413	2,196
June	1,571	378	1,949
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	20,305	4,924	25,229

Average per diem cost \$8.67

Average daily membership 69.1

